



rec'd 3/27/90
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)
FPO NEW YORK 09591-1729

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5757

Ser LSD41/106

28 FEB 90

From: Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41)

To: Director, Naval History (OP-09BH)

Subj: 1989 COMMAND HISTORY

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12E

Encl: (1) Command Composition and Organization
(2) Chronology
(3) Narrative
(4) Supporting Documents

1. In accordance with requirements set forth in reference (a), enclosures (1), (2), (3), and (4) are submitted for the period 01 January 1989 to 31 December 1989.

T. L. Breitinger
T. L. BREITINGER

SHIP'S MISSION

The mission of USS WHIDBEY ISLAND is to conduct sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy. Designed to transport elements of a landing force to an Amphibious Objective Area, LSD-41 launches preloaded assault landing craft and amphibians in the waterborne assault and supports the landing force in subsequent operations ashore.

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND will operate primarily as an element of an Amphibious Task Force to gain or maintain sea control through projection of power ashore.

With its extensive surface assault, command and control capability, LSD-41 is often times assigned duties as Primary Control Ship to organize and execute the entire waterborne assault. The ship is also designed to be a boathaven rendering docking and repair services to small ships, boats and landing craft.

Compared with previous LSD's, the WHIDBEY ISLAND class introduces to the fleet a significant improvement in amphibious warfare. The new and improved capabilities are updated communications and combat systems, 20 and 60 ton cranes, expanded repair shop facilities, two helicopter landing spots, complete medical and dental spaces and automated computer-based logistic support. It is also the first ship built to embark and support the U.S. Navy's new Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC).

Assigned to Commander Amphibious Squadron Ten and homeported at the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia, WHIDBEY ISLAND is the previous proud winner of the coveted Battle Efficiency Award and "Top Gator" Award.

WHIDBEY ISLAND is commanded by Commander Thomas L. Breitinger.

Enclosure (1)

JANUARY

- 1-5 MARG 1-89 UNDERWAY TRANS-ATLANTIC.
- 6 UNDERWAY TRANS-ATLANTIC. RENDEZVOUS CARRIER BATTLE GROUP.
CONDUCT LCAC OVER THE HORIZON CONTROL EXERCISE
- 7-10 UNDERWAY TRANS-ATLANTIC.
- 11 MOOR ROTA, SPAIN.
- 12-13 INPORT ROTA. COMPLETE INBRIEFS AND TURNOVER FROM MARG
2-88.
- 14-21 INPORT ROTA.
- 22 UNDERWAY. COMMENCE OPERATION SIERRA DE RETIN.
- 23-24 CONTINUE SIERRA DE RETIN.
- 25 CONTINUE SIERRA DE RETIN. MISHAP WITH LCAC'S 09 AND 10.
09 DAMAGE TO PROPS. 10 DAMAGE TO RUDDER.
- 26-27 CONTINUE SIERRA DE RETIN.
- 28 COMPLETE SIERRA DE RETIN. UNDERWAY TOULON, FRANCE.
- 29-30 UNDERWAY TOULON, FRANCE.
- 31 MOOR TOULON, FRANCE.

Enclosure (2)

FEBRUARY

- 1 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. PLANNING, PRE-SAIL CONFERENCE ONBOARD GUADALCANAL.
- 2 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. PHINIA 89 CONFERENCE ONBOARD FNS FOCH.
- 3 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE.
- 4 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. EMBARK FRENCH COMMANDO TEAMS HUBERT AND MONTFORT FOR PHINIA 89.
- 5 UNDERWAY FOR PHINIA 89. COMMENCE OPERATION PHINIA 89.
- 6-9 CONTINUE PHINIA 89.
- 10 CONTINUE PHINIA 89. FAS/RAS USNS KAISER.
- 11 CONTINUE PHINIA 89. TOKEN FAS FNS VAR.
- 12 CONTINUE PHINIA 89. NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATION.
- 13 COMPLETE PHINIA 89.
- 14 FAS USNS KAISER. RAS USS CONCORD. AMMO TRANSFER USS NITRO.
- 15 UNDERWAY HAIFA, ISRAEL. BLACK HISTORY DINNER.
- 16-17 UNDERWAY HAIFA, ISRAEL.
- 18 UNDERWAY HAIFA, ISRAEL. TOWING EXERCISE USS AUSTIN.
- 19-20 UNDERWAY HAIFA, ISRAEL.
- 21 MOOR HAIFA, ISRAEL. MISHAP WITH USS AUSTIN. COMMENCE RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY. LCAC 10 AND 11 COMMENCE DRYDOCK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.
- 22-28 INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL. CONTINUE RAV. CONTINUE LCAC DRYDOCK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.

Enclosure (2)

MARCH

- 1-5 INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL. CONTINUE RAV. CONTINUE LCAC DRYDOCK REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE.
- 6 INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL. LCACS 10 AND 11 RETURN TO LSD 41. CONTINUE RAV.
- 7-8 INPORT HAIFA, ISRAEL. CONTINUE RAV.
- 9 COMPLETE RAV. UNDERWAY IZMIR, TURKEY.
- 10 UNDERWAY IZMIR, TURKEY.
- 11 UNDERWAY IZMIR, TURKEY. RAS USS KALAMAZOO.
- 12 UNDERWAY IZMIR, TURKEY.
- 13-15 ANCHORED IZMIR, TURKEY.
- 16-17 UNDERWAY AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY.
- 18 MOOR AUGUSTA BAY, SICILY. ONLOAD TWO LCAC SHROUDS FOR LCAC 09 AND CARGO. UNDERWAY NAPLES, ITALY.
- 19 UNDERWAY NAPLES, ITALY. FAS USNS HUMPHRIES. VERTREP USNS SATURN.
- 20 MOOR NAPLES, ITALY.
- 21-30 INPORT NAPLES, ITALY.
- 31 UNDERWAY ANCHORAGE NAPLES, ITALY.

Enclosure (2)

APRIL

- 1-3 ANCHORED NAPLES, ITALY.
- 4 UNDERWAY PALMA DE MAJORCA. CONDUCT 200 NM RUN FOR LCAC TEST/EVALUATION.
- 5-6 UNDERWAY PALMA DE MAJORCA. HIGHLINE TRANSFER USS NEWPORT.
- 7 MOOR PALMA DE MAJORCA
- 8-17 INPORT PALMA DE MAJORCA.
- 18 UNDERWAY DRAGON HAMMER 89. FAS USNS JOHN LENTHALL. VERTREP USNS SATURN.
- 19 COMMENCE OPERATION DRAGON HAMMER 89.
- 20-23 CONTINUE DRAGON HAMMER 89. PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER, CDR THOMAS L. BREITINGER, ARRIVES.
- 24 COMPLETE DRAGON HAMMER 89. UNDERWAY TOULON, FRANCE.
- 25-27 UNDERWAY TOULON, FRANCE.
- 28 UNDERWAY TOULON, FRANCE. OFFLOAD LCACS AND MARINES ST. RAPHAEL, FRANCE.
- 29 MOOR TOULON, FRANCE.
- 30 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. COMMENCE RESTRICTED AVAILABILITY AND INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE AVAILABILTY.

Enclosure (2)

MAY

- 1 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. CHANGE OF COMMAND. CDR THOMAS L. BREITINGER RELIEVED CDR GORDON S. HOLDER AS COMMANDING OFFICER, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41).
- 2-11 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. CONTINUE RAV AND IMAV.
- 12 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. CONTINUE RAV AND IMAV. COMMENCE NAVY RELIEF FUND DRIVE.
- 13-15 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE.
- 16 INPORT TOULON, FRANCE. COMPLETE RAV AND IMAV.
- 17 TRANSIT TO ST. RAPHAEL, FRANCE. COMMENCE BACKLOAD OF LCACS AND MARINES.
- 18 CONTINUE BACKLOAD.
- 19 COMPLETE BACKLOAD OF LCACS AND MARINES. CONREP USNS RIGEL.
- 20-25 UNDERWAY FOR LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 26-29 ANCHORED MENTON, FRANCE.
- 30 UNDERWAY OPERATION SARDINIA 89. FAS USNS JOHN LENTHALL.
- 31 UNDERWAY OPERATION SARDINIA 89.

Enclosure (2)

JUNE

- 1 UNDERWAY OPERATION SARDINIA 89.
- 2 SEA SARDINIA EXERCISE, PRE-SAIL CONFERENCE ONBOARD ITS DORIA. PRE-ASSAULT CONFERENCE ONBOARD USS GUADALCANAL. COMMENCE SARDINIA 89.
- 3 CONTINUE SARDINIA 89. FAS ITS STRAMBOLI.
- 4-10 CONTINUE SARDINIA 89.
- 11 COMPLETE SARDINIA. UNDERWAY ROTA, SPAIN.
- 12 UNDERWAY ROTA, SPAIN.
- 14 MOOR ROTA, SPAIN.
- 15-17 INPORT ROTA, SPAIN. COMPLETE NAVY RELIEF FUND DRIVE. TURNOVER FORCES MARG 2-89.
- 18 UNDERWAY TRANSLANT.
- 19-27 UNDERWAY TRANS-ATLANTIC.
- 28 UNDERWAY TRANS-ATLANTIC. UNREP USNS KAISER. ANCHOR ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA. COMMENCE OFFLOAD MARINES AND MARINE EQUIPMENT.
- 29 MOOR MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA. COMPLETE OFFLOAD. UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.
- 30 ANCHOR LITTLE CREEK. OFFLOAD LCACS AND LCAC CREW. MOOR LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA. COMMENCE FIRST STANDDOWN AND LEAVE PERIOD.

Enclosure (2)

JULY

1-12 INPORT LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINA.
13 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. FIRST STANDDOWN AND LEAVE PERIOD ENDS.
14 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMENCE SECOND STANDDOWN AND LEAVE PERIOD.
15-20 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
21 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. ALL HANDS FAST CRUISE.
22-27 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
28 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. SECOND STANDDOWN AND LEAVE PERIOD ENDS.
29-31 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.

Enclosure (2)

AUGUST

- 1 UNDERWAY LCAC AND FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN VIRGINIA
CAPE HATTERAS OPERATIONS AREA.
- 2-3 CONTINUE LCAC AND HELO OPS.
- 4 MOOR LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.
- 5-13 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 14-18 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMAND INSPECTION.
- 19-23 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 24 SHIFTED BERTHS AT LITTLE CREEK. DEAD STICK MOVE.
- 25-27 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 28-31 UNDERWAY HELICOPTER OPERATIONS IN VIRGINIA CAPE HATTERAS
OPS AREA.

Enclosure (2)

SEPTEMBER

- 1 MOOR LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.
- 2-4 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 5 UNDERWAY FOR ANCHORAGE. LCAC OPS. COMMENCE COMBINED
FEDERAL CAMPAIGN.
- 6-7 UNDERWAY FOR LCAC OPERATIONS.
- 8 MOOR NAVAL STATION, NORFOLK.
- 9-11 INPORT NORFOLK. COMMENCE ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE
TRAINING (EMAT).
- 12 UNDERWAY FOR EMAT.
- 13-14 CONTINUE EMAT.
- 15 COMPLETE EMAT. UNDERWAY NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.
- 16 MOOR NEWPORT.
- 17-23 INPORT NEWPORT. PERFORMED DUTIES AS SCHOOL SHIP FOR SURFACE
WARFARE OFFICER SCHOOL COMMAND (SWOSCOLCOM).
- 24 EMBARKED COAST GUARD LAW ENFORCEMENT DETACHMENT. UNDERWAY
NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, VIRGINIA. LEDET OPS WITH MINNOW.
- 25 MOOR NAVAL STATION NORFOLK. EMBARKED COMPHIBRON 2 STAFF.
EMBARKED ACU 2 DET WITH 2 LCM'S AND 2 LCU'S. WHIDBEY
ISLAND TASKED TO SERVE AS FLAGSHIP FOR HURRICANE HUGO
DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS.
- 26 UNDERWAY VACAPES OPS AREA FOR FLIGHT OPS.
- 27 FLIGHT OPS IN VACAPES OPS AREA.
- 28-30 UNDERWAY ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO TO PROVIDE DISASTER
RELIEF.

Enclosure (2)

OCTOBER

- 1 UNDERWAY ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO.
- 2 MOOR ROOSEVELT ROADS, PUERTO RICO . COMMENCE ASSISTANCE
FOR DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS IN PUERTO RICO. WHIDBEY ISLAND
UNDER COMMAND OF COMFAIRCARIB. OFFLOADED LCU'S.
- 3 INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS. CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS.
- 4 INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS. CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS. DAMAGED
YFU ONLOADED FOR REPAIRS TO HULL.
- 5-11 INPORT ROOSEVELT ROADS. CONTINUE RELIEF EFFORTS.
PROSPECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CDR DAVE W. SCHRECK, ARRIVES.
- 12 DEBARK COMPHIBRON TWO. TURNOVER BRIEF WITH USS PENSACOLA
FOR ST. CROIX SUPPORT OPERATIONS. UNDERWAY FOR ST. CROIX.
MOOR ST. CROIX.
- 13 INPORT ST. CROIX. COMMENCE SUPPORT OF ARMY 18TH AIRBORNE.
- 14 INPORT ST. CROIX. CDR DAVID W. SCHRECK ASSUMED DUTIES AS
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND. PROVIDED TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE TO OFFICES OF U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.
- 15-23 INPORT ST. CROIX. CONTINUE SUPPORT OF 18TH AIRBORNE.
- 24-27 UNDERWAY. CONTINUE SUPPORT OF 18TH AIRBORNE VIA SMALL BOAT.
- 28 COMPLETE SUPPORT OF 18TH AIRBORNE. UNDERWAY ROOSEVELT
ROADS. MOOR ROOSEVELT ROADS. ONLOAD LCU AND YFU FOR
TRANSPORT.
- 29-31 UNDERWAY PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA. COMPLETE COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN DRIVE.

Enclosure (2)

NOVEMBER

- 1 UNDERWAY PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA.
- 2 ANCHOR PANAMA CITY TO ONLOAD LCAC 15 FOR TRANSPORT BACK TO LITTLE CREEK. UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.
- 3-5 UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK.
- 6 ANCHOR LITTLE CREEK. OFFLOAD LCAC 15, LCU 1653, AND YFU 1062. MOOR LITTLE CREEK.
- 7-12 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 13 UNDERWAY TO ANCHORAGE. EMBARK LCM-8 (25), LCU-1643, AND LCU-1645. UNDERWAY ONSLOW BAY, NORTH CAROLINA.
- 14 ANCHOR ONSLOW BAY. EMBARK MARINES AND 11 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLES. UNDERWAY AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING.
- 15 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT REHEARSAL ONSLOW BAY.
- 16 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT. DEBARK MARINES AND AAV'S. UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK.
- 17 ANCHOR LITTLE CREEK. DEBARK TWO LCU'S AND LCM-8 BOAT. MOOR LITTLE CREEK.
- 18-20 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 21 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMENCE FIRST HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 22-26 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 27 UNDERWAY NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND.
- 28 MOOR NEWPORT. COMMENCE SCHOOL SHIP VISIT FOR SWOSCOLCOM.
- 29 INPORT NEWPORT. PERFORM DUTIES AS SCHOOL SHIP.
- 30 INPORT NEWPORT. COMPLETE DUTIES AS SCHOOL SHIP. UNDERWAY LITTLE CREEK.

Enclosure (2)

DECEMBER

- 1 MOOR LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA.
- 2 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 3 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. FIRST LEAVE PERIOD ENDS.
- 4 UNDERWAY VACAPE OPS AREA.
- 5-6 VACAPE OPS AREA. CONDUCTED HELICOPTER SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING.
- 7 VACAPE OPS AREA. UNREP OF OPPORTUNITY USNS NEOSHO.
- 8 ANCHOR LITTLE CREEK. MOOR LITTLE CREEK.
- 9-14 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMENCED IMAV WITH SIMA, LITTLE CREEK.
- 15 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMENCE SECOND LEAVE PERIOD.
- 16-25 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.
- 26 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. SECOND HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD ENDS.
- 27 INPORT LITTLE CREEK. COMMENCE THIRD HOLIDAY LEAVE PERIOD.
- 28-31 INPORT LITTLE CREEK.

Enclosure (2)

JANUARY

USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) started the New Year enroute to the Mediterranean Sea as part of Marine Amphibious Readiness Group 1-89. In addition to WHIDBEY ISLAND, MARG 1-89 included the flagship USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7), USS AUSTIN (LPD 4), USS SPARTANBURG COUNTY (LST 1192), and USS NEWPORT (LST 1179). Bringing with her a new dimension to amphibious warfare capabilities, WHIDBEY ISLAND was the first east coast amphibious ship to deploy with the Navy's new Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC). LCAC's 09, 10, and 11 from Assault Craft Unit 4, Detachment Alpha, deployed with MARG 1-89 to the Mediterranean.

During the twelve-day trans-Atlantic crossing, the ship conducted numerous general quarters, abandon ship, and battle messing drills, in addition to basic engineering casualty control exercises, live fire gunnery exercises, diversionary tactics exercises, and night steaming exercises. The ship also utilized the transit time to define Navy/Marine Corps integration for inport security. On 5 and 9 January, WHIDBEY ISLAND refueled from USS KALAMAZOO (AOR 6). On 6 January, the ship conducted LCAC over-the-horizon control exercises, providing useful information for LCAC over-the-horizon deployment.

On 11 January WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Rota, Spain to begin the turnover in forces with USS PENSACOLA (LSD 38). Commander Gordon S. Holder, Commanding Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41), attended the MARG 1-89 NATO brief, Commander Service Force Sixth Fleet Brief, and Sierra de Retin Final Planning Brief

Enclosure (3)

onboard USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7) on 12 and 13 January. On 15 January, crewmembers participated in the Naval Station Rota, Spanish Conquistador Sports Tournament, consisting of a 5-K run, bowling, basketball and golf.

WHIDBEY ISLAND won first place out of all the representatives from MARG 1-89. The next day, 16 January, the ship celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. and completed the official turnover with USS PENSACOLA (LSD 38). Two days later the ship was honored by a visit from Vice Admiral J.D. Williams, Commander Sixth Fleet, and other dignitaries. The ship conducted an LCAC tour and demonstration for COMSIXTHFLT and Commander in Chief, Naval Base, Rota. While in port Rota, Spain, sailors were able to enjoy various tours to Sevilla, Tetuan/Morocco, Cadiz, and Jerez de la Frontera.

After finishing the week in port, WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway on 22 January to commence operation Sierra de Retin, in conjunction with Spanish, French, and Italian forces. Marines and their equipment were transported ashore by LCAC's, and CH46 and CH53 helicopters. Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) were also used in the assault. During the operation the ship conducted a two-day safety standdown to emphasize the proper handling of flammable and hazardous materials. On 25 January, LCAC'S 09 and 10 collided in the well deck. LCAC 09 damaged her two propellers and LCAC 10 sustained damage to her rudder. LCAC maintenance crew restored LCAC 10 to full operational capability.

Enclosure (3)

On 27 January, WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced selective backload of assault units and personnel. Upon completion of Sierra de Retin the following day, the ship set sail for her next port, conducting a live Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) firing on the way. The ship transited the Straits of Gibraltar on 29 January. On 31 January WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Toulon, France and immediately commenced a fresh water washdown of the ship and all Marine Corps vehicles.

Enclosure (3)

FEBRUARY

On 1 February the Commanding Officer, Operations Officer, and the First Lieutenant attended the Planning, Pre-Sail conference onboard USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7) and on 2 February participated in the Phinia '89 conference onboard the French Naval Ship FOCH. Also, the ship conducted damage control training exercises while making preparations for the upcoming amphibious exercise. On 3 February Rear Admiral Tripier, ALECSMED, along with Captain John N. McKay, Jr., Commander Amphibious Squadron Two, visited the ship for an inspection tour. On the next day the French Commando Teams Hubert and Montfort embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND, and on 5 February the ship commenced Phinia '89.

Under the auspices of the French Navy, U.S. and French forces participated in Phinia '89, the largest U.S./French amphibious exercise in years. On 5 February the ship inserted advance U.S and French forces on the east side of Corsica. The next day an amphibious rehearsal was conducted on the west side of the island, and on 7 February the amphibious assault was held on the east side of Corsica. Off the southern coast of Corsica, WHIDBEY ISLAND spent most of her time supporting the Marines ashore. Small craft used in the operation included the Seafoxes, CRRC'S, and Avon boats. LCACs and helicopters transported the Marines to and from beach. During the operation WHIDBEY ISLAND celebrated her fourth birthday on 9 February.

Enclosure (3)

On the following day the ship conducted a simulated nuclear detonation drill, in addition to a fueling and refueling at sea with USNS KAISER (TAO 187). On 11 February WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO OP), one of its secondary missions - to evacuate civilians from unfriendly territory. Thirty-three crewmembers participated in the exercise. WHIDBEY ISLAND served as collection center for over 200 NEO evacuees. The ship also conducted a dry fueling at sea with the French Naval Ship VAR.

Meanwhile, on 12 February, as the ship commenced selective backload for Phinia '89, the NEO OPS participants were returned via LCAC to the ship. On the following day the ship completed the tactical NEO backload. On 14 February WHIDBEY ISLAND conducted a replenishment at sea with USS CONCORD (AFS 5) and a refueling at sea with USNS KAISER (TAO 187), as well as an ammunition transfer with USS NITRO (AE 23).

Mission complete, WHIDBEY ISLAND proceeded enroute to Haifa, Israel, conducting a live CIWS shoot on 15 February. That evening all hands honored Black History Month with a celebratory dinner on the messdecks. In the main engineering spaces the engineers held BECCE drills. In transit to Haifa, Israel, WHIDBEY ISLAND conducted a towing exercise with USS AUSTIN (LPD 4). Also, enroute to Haifa, Israel, the captain and crew celebrated the hard work of the previous operation with a steel beach picnic on the flight deck.

Enclosure (3)

After offloading the Marine vehicles by LCAC, WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Haifa, Israel on 21 February. While attempting to moor outboard of USS AUSTIN (LPD 4), the ships collided, resulting in minor damage to WHIDBEY ISLAND starboard wingwall aft and AUSTIN port wingwall aft. Ship's maintenance crew repaired damage to WHIDBEY ISLAND and AUSTIN. On 21 February she commenced her three-week inport Restricted Availability. LCAC's 10 and 11 also began a three-week repair and maintenance period in drydock. The ship conducted a maintenance, material, management (3M) standdown period that lasted the entire yard period.

While inport, sailors were able to take advantage of tours to Galilee, Jerusalem, Massada, Tel Aviv, and the Bat Ya'Ar Ranch. Onboard, groups of 25 to 50 Israeli civilians and foreign dignitaries toured the ship daily as part of an overall Navy public affairs program with the citizens of Haifa, Israel. Also, on 25 and 26 February, volunteer crewmembers painted and repaired the Little Sisters of Jesus Convent in Nazareth, Israel.

Enclosure (3)

MARCH

WHIDBEY ISLAND began March by continuing her Restricted Availability in Haifa, Israel, and the LCACS continued their repair and maintenance period in drydock. The ship also conducted tours for visitors and damage control training for repair locker personnel. On 4 and 5 March volunteer crewmembers painted and repaired the Haifa Orphanage for Unwanted Children in order to complete the ship's obligations of community service. Jewish World War II veterans and the Mayor of Natanya, Israel toured the ship on 6 March, while LCAC's 10 and 11 returned to the well deck after nearly two weeks of repairs in drydock.

On 9 March WHIDBEY ISLAND completed her RAV and commenced backload of all Marine equipment before getting underway for Izmir, Turkey. Enroute the ship conducted a refueling at sea with USS KALAMAZOO (AOR 6). She also conducted BECCES, a CIWS shoot, and general quarters. In preparation for the port visit to Turkey, all hands were required to view the movie, "Midnight Express." On 13 March WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored off Izmir, Turkey. Inport crewmembers were able to enjoy tours to Ephesus and Pergamon, besides good buys at the local bazaar.

Enclosure (3)

The ship remained at anchor for four days before getting underway on 16 March for Augusta Bay, Sicily. While underway the crew conducted two general quarters drills, battling a simulated nuclear detonation and attempting to right the ship. Also, ACU-4 and SEAL Team 2 members held a small arms familiarization firing on the flight deck.

WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Augusta Bay, Sicily on the morning of 18 March to onload two shrouds for LCAC 09 and other cargo, before departing in the afternoon for Naples, Italy. That night the ship conducted BECCes. The following day the ship conducted a vertical replenishment with USNS SATURN (TAFS 10) and a fueling at sea with USNS HUMPHRIES (TAO 188). Later the ship transitted the Straits of Messina.

On 20 March WHIDBEY ISLAND moored Naples, Italy for ten days, during which time several crewmembers celebrated an Easter Vigil in Rome with the Pope on 25 and 26 March. On 27 March the ship commenced another Material, Maintenance, Management (3-M) standdown scheduled to last until the end of the port visit. On 31 March WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway to anchorage and conducted a successful operational test of LCAC'S 09, 10, and 11. This day signified the halfway mark for sailors deployed on MARG 1-89.

Enclosure (3)

APRIL

On 2 April, Bishop (b) (6) Archdiocese of Military Services, conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to 34 sailors and Marines at Base Chapel, Naval Station Naples. A reception followed the Eucharist.

After 10 days inport, WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway for Palma de Majorca on 4 April, conducting a 200 nautical mile test and evaluation for all three LCACS. Enroute the ship held three general quarters drills. Two were simulated main space fire drills and the other was a simulated nuclear detonation, complete with battle messing. The ship also conducted BECCE drills. On 6 April the ship conducted a highline transfer exercise with USS NEWPORT (LST 1179).

On 7 April the ship arrived at Palma de Majorca, where she stayed moored for 10 days. The ship got underway for Dragon Hammer '89 on 17 April and immediately conducted a fueling at sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (TAO 189) and a vertical replenishment with USNS SATURN (TAFS 10). On 19 April WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced operation Dragon Hammer '89.

Enclosure (3)

Dragon Hammer '89 involved Navy and Marine units from the United States, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and England. After arriving off the coast of southern Sardinia, the ship conducted a rehearsal turnaway landing, followed by the actual assault in the early morning. The LCAC's and helicopters transported the Marines and their equipment to the shore where they held cross-training and special maneuvers. Onboard, the Flight Quarters crew logged over 30 straight hours of flight deck operations.

During the operation, Commander Thomas L. Breitinger, prospective Commanding Officer, arrived onboard to begin turnover for the Change of Command with Commander Gordon S. Holder.

On 23 April the ship commenced selective backload of Marines and equipment, and on 24 April the backload was completed. The ship immediately set sail for Toulon, France. A memorial service for the 47 crewmembers who died aboard the USS IOWA (BB 61) was held on 28 April.

WHIDBEY ISLAND offloaded the LCACS and the Marines at St. Raphael, France arriving at Toulon on 29 April in preparation for the upcoming Change of Command on 1 May. Before sailing into port, though, the LCAC's offloaded Marine equipment and the ship commenced a fresh water washdown of the well deck. On 30 April Commander Holder conducted his last personnel inspection and a rehearsal for the Change of Command the following day. WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced a two week RAV and IMAV.

Enclosure (3)

MAY

Command of the Dock Landing Ship USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41) changed hands on 1 May when Commander Thomas L. Breitinger relieved Commander Gordon S. Holder as Commanding Officer in a ceremony on the ship's Flight Deck at Toulon, France. A reception followed on the 06 level weatherdeck. Two days later, the ship held her semi-annual Physical Readiness Test.

WHIDBEY ISLAND continued her Physical Readiness Test throughout the week, completing the evolution on 11 May. The ship commenced her annual Navy Relief Fund Drive on 12 May. On 13 May, Commander Breitinger held an awards presentation on the flight deck to reward personnel for all the hard work of the previous four months. The ship completed the RAV and IMAV on 16 May as well as successfully passing a Commander Sixth Fleet Material, Maintenance, Management (3-M) Inspection. Also, the Engineering Readiness Assist Team (ERAT) from COMPHIBRON TWO embarked onboard.

WHIDBEY ISLAND completed ERAT on 17 May and got underway for St. Raphael, France in order to pick up LCAC's 10 and 11 and the Marine units that had been training ashore during the ship's Toulon port visit. The ship anchored off St. Raphael and commenced backload of LCACs and all Marines and their equipment. After completing the backload on 19 May, WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway to conduct a connected replenishment with USNS RIGEL (TAF 56).

Enclosure (3)

On 20 May the ship was underway to conduct LCAC operations. The next day the ship conducted BECCE's, and a main space fire drill during general quarters. On 21 May the ship again conducted BECCE's, and a main space fire drill during general quarters. Also, WHIDBEY ISLAND participated in diversionary tactics and a photographic exercise in conjunction with the other ships of MARG 1-89. A series of BECCE's and a main space fire drill, followed by a salvage and demolition drill, were conducted the next day. On 24 May the ship again conducted more drills, including BECCE's, general quarters, mass casualty, and emergency destruct.

On 26 May, WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored off Menton, France. That evening the Captain hosted a reception for the Mayor of Menton and other foreign dignitaries on the 06 level weatherdeck. The ship stayed anchored for five days, allowing crewmembers to enjoy other seaports of the French Riviera, such as Nice, Cannes, and Monaco/Monte Carlo. In addition, the ship continued her Navy Relief Fund Drive.

On 30 May WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway for operation Sardinia '89 and conducted a fueling at sea with USNS JOHN LENTHALL (TAO 189). On the last day of May, 13 Midshipmen embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND for Midshipmen training.

Enclosure (3)

JUNE

Along with Italian, Spanish, and French forces, U.S. sailors and Marines proved again that joint training among allies can be beneficial for everyone. During Sardinia '89, a few crewmembers and embarked midshipmen practiced a Special Patrol Insertion Exercise, or S.P.I.E. rigging. However, the highlight of the operation occurred when the flight deck crew logged its 2,000th safe helicopter landing and takeoff of the deployment.

On 2 June, WHIDBEY ISLAND anchored in the Gulf of Castellamare. The Captain attended a Sea Sardinia Exercise, Pre-Sail conference onboard the Italian Ship DORIA and then the pre-assault conference onboard USS GUADALCANAL (LPH 7). WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced operation Sardinia '89 upon completion of the briefs. The next day the ship conducted a fueling at sea with the Italian Ship STROMBOLI. During the next week the crew supported the Marines ashore with LCAC operations, flight quarters, and small boat exercises. On 10 June, the ship commenced selective backload and on 11 June completed backload of all Marines and their equipment before getting underway for Rota, Spain. Enroute, the ship conducted general quarters drills.

Enclosure (3)

On 14 June, WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at Rota, Spain for the turnover in forces with MARG 2-89. Also, the 13 embarked Midshipmen debarked the ship. Vice Admiral J.D. Williams, COMSIXTHFLT, visited the ship on 16 June to congratulate the officers and crew of WHIDBEY ISLAND for an outstanding deployment. The following day the ship commenced and completed backload of Marines, their equipment, and the LCAC's. WHIDBEY ISLAND completed her annual Navy Relief Fund Drive. With 100% participation the crew raised over \$11,000.

On 18 June, WHIDBEY ISLAND began her outchop and set sail for the United States of America, celebrating the event with a steel beach picnic on the flight deck. During the trans-Atlantic crossing, the ship conducted many BECCE and general quarters drills, focusing on simulated main space fires and chemical, biological, and radiological attacks. The ship held a seabag/customs inspection on 22 June, in accordance with Navy Regulations and international law. The following day, an awards ceremony was held on the flight deck to reward the hard work and special accomplishments of the completion of the deployment. On 25 June, the ship held a skeet shoot, a boxing smoker, and a steel beach picnic on the flight deck.

Enclosure (3)

On 28 June, WHIDBEY ISLAND conducted an underway replenishment with USNS KAISER (TAO 187) before anchoring in Onslow Bay, North Carolina to commence offload of all Marines and their equipment. On 29 June the ship moored at Morehead City, North Carolina to complete offload of Marines and equipment. Afterwards, Tiger Cruise participants - family and friends of crewmembers - embarked onboard and the ship got underway for the Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia. On 30 June, Rear Admiral Glenn E. Whisler, Commander Amphibious Group 2, arrived onboard to extend his gratitude and congratulations to the officers and crew of WHIDBEY ISLAND for a very successful deployment. While at anchor, the LCAC's were debarked, thus completing the first east coast deployment of LCAC's to the Mediterranean. WHIDBEY ISLAND then moored at Quaywall East, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, commencing a standdown and leave period.

Enclosure (3)

JULY

At the beginning of July, after the six month deployment, the crew easily settled into a standdown period, getting reacquainted with family and loved ones. The crew enjoyed reduced working hours Monday through Friday, while catching up on paperwork and completing minor repairs and maintenance to the ship. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the captain and crew regularly held command physical training. The first standdown and leave period ended on 13 July.

On 14 July WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced a second two week standdown and leave period. Paperwork, repairs, and maintenance still took priority for those who stayed onboard, while their shipmates enjoyed leave. Two morning periods a week were set aside for command physical training. On 21 July all hands onboard participated in a fast cruise. The second leave period ended on 28 July, and on the next day the ship switched to a four section watchbill. Also, eight Navy Junior Recruit Officer Training Cadets from Gaithersburg, Maryland and 3 members of the Scientist to Sea Program embarked for a four day familiarization cruise.

Enclosure (3)

AUGUST

On 1 August WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway for LCAC and helicopter training in the Virginia-Cape Hatteras operations area. That night the ship conducted BECCE's. In addition to deck landing qualifications, wet well operations, and BECCE's, the crew also conducted a main space fire drill, an emergency destruct drill, and an abandon ship drill on the following day. On 3 August, WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for a degaussing run, more BECCE's and a familiarization fire using the .50 caliber mounts. The ship moored at Little Creek on 4 August.

On 5 August the ship hosted a postal assist visit under the auspices of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. That afternoon the captain held a dungaree inspection on the flight deck. WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced annual HIV Testing on 10 August and continued the testing for two weeks.

WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced her annual Command Inspection on 14 August, completing the five day inspection on 18 August. Captain James C. Van Slyke, Jr., Commander Amphibious Squadron Ten, who conducted the inspection, rated the ship as being outstanding. On 21 August the Mexican Chief of Naval Operations toured WHIDBEY ISLAND and was hosted at a luncheon on board by Rear Admiral Whisler, COMPHIBGRU TWO.

Enclosure (3)

On 24 August the ship shifted berths in a dead stick move from the Quaywall to the dogleg of the Quaywall. WHIDBEY ISLAND got underway on 28 August for helicopter operations, BECCE drills, general quarters, and other training in the Virginia-Cape Hatteras operations area until the end of the month.

Enclosure (3)

SEPTEMBER

At the conclusion of amphibious training in the Virginia-Cape Hatteras operations area, WHIDBEY ISLAND went to anchorage before returning to Little Creek on 1 September. On 4 September WHIDBEY ISLAND dressed ship in honor of Labor Day. The following day, two participants in the Guests of the Navy Cruise program embarked onboard for a four day familiarization cruise. WHIDBEY ISLAND went to anchorage and then got underway for LCAC operations and a series of BECCE drills on 5 September. The ship also commenced her annual Combined Federal Campaign.

After completion of LCAC operations, WHIDBEY ISLAND returned to port at Naval Station Norfolk on 8 September and debarked the two participants of the Guests of the Navy Cruise program. On 11 September, the ship commenced her COMNAVSURFLANT Engineering Maintenance Assistance Training (EMAT) review and the following day, 12 September, got underway. That week the ship conducted numerous BECCE drills and other engineering operations for EMAT review. On 14 September, in addition to BECCE drills, the ship conducted an Engineering/Administration Review, completing EMAT the following day.

Enclosure (3)

On 15 September WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for Newport, Rhode Island, where she would serve as "school ship" for the Surface Warfare Officer School Command. The following day the ship arrived at Newport, Rhode Island. On 17 September, in honor of Bells Across America, the ship rang her bells for 202 seconds. While inport Newport, Diesel Engineering Officer of the Watch (DEOOW) students, prospective department heads, executive officers, and commanding officers toured the ship for five days.

On 24 September WHIDBEY ISLAND embarked U.S Coast Guard District 8 Law Enforcement Detachment and set sail for homeport. Later that day the ship encountered a stricken sailboat, the MINNOW, adrift 75 miles east of New York City. A small boat with ship's company and two Coast Guard personnel provided battle lanterns, batteries, and a course to New York City to Sarra Bat-Avraham, owner of the MINNOW. She refused further assistance from the Navy-Coast Guard team and proceeded to New York.

Afterward, the ship steamed to Naval Station, Norfolk, arriving the following day to take on supplies for an unexpected trip to Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Captain John N. McKay, Commander Amphibious Squadron Two, embarked WHIDBEY ISLAND that evening. The next morning, the ship was underway to the Virginia Cape Hatters operations area to conduct flight operations and embark two LCM'S and two LCU'S. On 28 September the ship set sail for Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico where she would serve as flagship for COMPHIBRON TWO Hurricane Hugo Disaster Relief Operations.

Enclosure (3)

Enroute to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, the ship conducted a CIWS exercise, flight operations, and two general quarters drills, one for a simulated mass conflagration and the other for a simulated nuclear detonation. In addition, the crew held a number of fund raising events to raise money for Combined Federal Campaign.

Enclosure (3)

OCTOBER

WHIDBEY ISLAND arrived at NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico on 2 October to serve as flagship for Captain John N. McKay, COMPHIBRON TWO, and to provide disaster relief to personnel assigned to the base. The ship was now under the operational control of COMFAIRCARIB. While in port the ship provided working parties, fresh water, supplies, and ferrying assistance to residents of the Naval Station affected by the hurricane. The ship also delivered parts and supplies to USS AUSTIN (LPD 4) and USS PENSACOLA (LSD 38). On 4 October WHIDBEY ISLAND embarked a damaged YFU for repairs to her hull. In addition, volunteer crewmembers repaired and painted the Vieques Health Center on the island of Vieques. On 7 October the ship held a command picnic to celebrate the hard work and long hours of the previous week. The damaged YFU was offloaded and released to NAVSTA Roosevelt Roads for further repairs.

The prospective executive officer, Commander David W. Schreck, arrived on 8 October for his turnover in duties with Lieutenant Commander Michael P. Nowakowski. On 12 October, after a turnover brief with USS PENSACOLA (LSD 38), WHIDBEY ISLAND debarked COMPHIBRON TWO and got underway for St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, arriving at the port Alucroix pier later that afternoon to support approximately 1,200 U.S. Army forces tasked with maintaining law and order on the island. Crewmembers provided relief services to the Army, both onboard and in the field.

Enclosure (3)

The ship provided food, field rations, fresh water, hot showers, laundry, barber, medical and dental services to the soldiers of the 18th Airborne for about two weeks. WHIDBEY ISLAND also provided technical assistance to the U.S. Army and Offices of the U.S. Attorney General. In addition, WHIDBEY ISLAND assumed Department of Defense air cargo tracking requirements for the remainder of the disaster support operations in St. Croix.

On 14 October Commander David W. Schreck officially assumed his duties as Executive Officer, USS WHIDBEY ISLAND (LSD 41). While inport for the remainder of the month, the crew was able to enjoy liberty in the principal island cities of Christianstead and Frederickstead. On 24 October WHIDBEY ISLAND went to anchorage, supporting the Army through small boat operations, providing fresh water, field rations, and other necessary supplies. The ship continued control over DOD air cargo tracking via ship's force liaison team ashore. The following day the ship held a general quarters, abandon ship, and man overboard drill, continuing small boat operations in support of the Army. On 27 October the crew conducted drills and small boat operations.

WHIDBEY ISLAND completed relief operations in support of the Army on 28 October and got underway for Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, arriving there later in the afternoon to take on fuel, stores, LCU 1653 and YFU 1062 for transport. The ship remained inport Roosevelt Roads for the remainder of the month. On 28 October WHIDBEY ISLAND came under the operational control of COMPHIBRON TEN. WHIDBEY ISLAND completed the annual Combined Federal Campaign Drive, raising over \$12,000 from the entire crew. On 29 October WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for Panama City, Florida.

Enclosure (3)

NOVEMBER

On 1 November, WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for Panama City, Florida to embark LCAC 15 for transport back to the Naval Amphibious Base. On 2 November the ship arrived off Panama City to onload LCAC 15 and then resume its transit to Little Creek. Enroute the ship conducted a number of BECCE drills, unannounced at-sea fire drills, and general quarter's drills. On 4 November, the captain held a personnel inspection and an awards ceremony on the flight deck to recognize the hard work and special achievements of the past few months.

On 6 November the ship went to anchorage and offloaded LCAC 15, LCU 1653, and YFU 1062 before mooring at Little Creek. The following day WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced her semi-annual Physical Readiness Testing. On 10 November the ship honored Veteran's Day by rigging the ship's dress lights. Two days later, WHIDBEY ISLAND completed her semi-annual Physical Readiness Testing.

WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for anchorage on 13 November to receive LCM-8 (25), LCU 1643 and LCU 1645. After taking on the small boats, she was underway for Onslow Bay, North Carolina to conduct three days of amphibious training with the U.S. Marine Corps. The ship went to anchorage in Onslow Bay on 14 November and the LCUs and LCM-8 boat retrieved three hundred Marines from the beach. In addition, the ship embarked 11 Amphibious Assault Vehicles for the exercise.

Enclosure (3)

On 15 November the ship conducted a rehearsal of the exercise, and on the following morning the actual assault was held. On 16 November, the ship commenced a two-day safety standdown, debarked all Marines and AAV's, and set sail for Little Creek. On 17 November the ship went to anchorage to debark the two LCUs and the LCM-8 boat and then proceeded to moor at Little Creek.

Four days later, on 21 November, WHIDBEY ISLAND commenced her first leave period for the Christmas holidays. On 23 November the crew rigged the dress ship lights in celebration of Thanksgiving. A Thanksgiving dinner was held on the messdecks.

On 27 November WHIDBEY ISLAND was underway for Newport, Rhode Island, where she would again serve as "school ship" for the Surface Warfare Officer School Command. The ship arrived at Newport on 28 November for a three-day visit. While inport the ship conducted tours for SWOSCOLCOM indoctrination students, DEOOW students, and prospective commanding officers, executive officers and department heads. WHIDBEY ISLAND completed her duties as school ship for SWOSCOLCOM on 30 November and got underway for Little Creek, conducting one general quarters drill enroute.

Enclosure (3)

DECEMBER

On 1 December WHIDBEY ISLAND moored at Little Creek. The first leave period ended on 3 December. On 4 December the ship got underway for the Virginia-Cape Hatteras operations area to conduct special helicopter operations training. There, she conducted BECCes, general quarters, and small boat exercises. Also, during flight quarters, fast rope operations were held. On 7 December the ship conducted an underway replenishment of opportunity with USNS NEOSHO (TAO 143). After going to anchorage on 8 December, the ship proceeded to moor Little Creek.

WHIDBEY ISLAND held the annual adult Christmas party at the Cavalier Hotel, Virginia Beach, Virginia on 9 December. On 10 December the ship held the annual children's Christmas party onboard ship on the messdecks. On Monday, 11 December, the ship began a three week Intermediate Maintenance Availability with SIMA, Little Creek.

WHIDBEY ISLAND switched to a three-section watchbill on 15 December and then commenced her second holiday leave period. On 25 December the ship celebrated Christmas with a yuletide dinner on the messdecks. On the following day, the second leave period ended. On 27 December WHIDBEY Island commenced her third holiday leave period, finishing out the month inport and wrapping up the IMAV.

Enclosure (3)